World Bank aided tubewell projects in Bihar

1707. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused to release the funds for the World Bank aided tubewells project in Bihar putting the project in jeopardy; and

(b) if so, what is the balance of funds to be released to the project and what are the reasons for non-release of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The World Bank signed an agreement in 1987 for International Development Association (IDA) Credit of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 59.5 million (equivalent to US $ 68 million) for Bihar Public Tubewells Project. The total disbursement uptil the end of May, 1993 is US $ 18.595 million. The slow pace of implementation and non-compliance of the covenants relating to water charges, Operation and Maintenance etc., by the Government of Bihar resulted into cancellation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) 40 million (US $ 54.70 million equivalent). Now balance US $ 8.035 million is meant for release on receipt of reimbursement claims from the State Government within the credit closing date i.e. 31-5-1994.

Establishing A National Institute of Ground Water Training in Bihar

1708. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is going to open a National Institute of Ground Water Training;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Bihar has offered adequate land and Office accommodation in Khagaul (Patna) for the Institute and all its infrastructure;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Site Selection Committee of the Ministry has seen the site on the 12th and 13th of March, 1993; and

(d) if so, by when the Central Government propose to establish the National Institute of Ground Water Training in Patna and what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Besides the proposal received from the Government of Bihar for locating the Institute at Patna, requests have also been received from the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh for setting up the Institute in the respective State/Union Territory. Therefore, with a view to select the most appropriate site for the Institute a Site Selection Committee has been constituted by the Government. The report of the site Selection Committee has been received by the Government and its recommendations are being considered.

Special Remedial Works on Sutlej and Ravi Rivers

1709. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee on special remedial works on Rivers Sutlej and Ravi;

(b) whether the Committee in its third Report identified river training works costing Rs. 3.58 crores during 1992-93;

(c) if so, the amount released/sanctioned to Punjab Government so far; and

(d) the steps taken to release the balance amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Rs. 1.50 crores was earmarked by Central Government as Central loan Assistance in 1992-93 budget for executing counter protective works on river Ravi and Sutlej, which was released to Government of Punjab during the year.